

Letter from Mabel Hubbard Bell to Alexander Graham Bell, November 2, 1896, with transcript

Letter from Mrs. Alexander Graham Bell to Dr. Alexander Graham Bell. 1331 Connecticut Avenue, Washington, D. C. November 2nd, 1896. My darling Alec:

This has been another glorious mild day but I could not get out, there were so many callers in the afternoon. I only got as far as to wear my bonnet half the day.

Colonel Wilson sent me some perfectly magnificent chrysanthemums today, the largest I have seen yet. I wrote him that it was pleasant to know that a friend had passed my door, seen that my latchstring was out and thought kindly of me.

I think I shall go to our Club tomorrow night to hear the election returns. It will be fun seeing how all the ladies take it. I saw one lady with yellow ribbons in her buttonhole today.

Papa had asked me how much money I shall require from the Trust and I am going to draw up an estimate and submit it to him.

Mrs. Pollok says she remembers no excitement like this since the war time. I wish you were here to share in and increase the excitement. You would be just in your element.

I am just as busy as I can be. First there is Georgie making several of Elsie's dresses in the house and I am trying to help her. Then the painters are in six rooms all at once. They are going to do the work for \$95.00 which I think reasonable. I am also trying to find gas fixtures for the library, you know we have never had proper light there. Then there is more furniture to get for the parlor and I must have either a new cook or a new laundress. I have 2 just had about the most unique offer of a cook I ever heard of. The man wrote to respectfully inform me that he knew a good cook of good character, who had been

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accustomed to receive fifty dollars a month but because she had been ill and was fat and could do no heavy work she would now come for twenty-five dollars. She weighed about 225 pounds!! Did you ever. The man is in sober earnest or one would think it was a big joke. I don't think I will take her, although one can't help being sorry for a poor old thing that is coming down in the world. I hoped she saved something when she got her fifty a month.

To think that my next letter will record the election of either Bryan or McKinley. "The great walking Capital I" says it will be a landslide for McKinley, but I feel in my boots that it will be just the other way. McKinley is by no means the attractive, dashing, handsome young hero Bryan is and all the world loves a young hero.

Ever lovingly yours, Mabel.